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school everywhere, and that a poor teacher is growing better or is removed where the right system prevails."

The treatment of the size of boards of education, of the relation of the board to the superintendent, the need of and functions of the special school, etc., is on a sane and workable basis; though as a contribution to the subject the work would be of more value if discussion with proof were substituted for dogmatic statement. This is one of a group of books now appearing which, by giving details of methods, records, forms, etc., aim to aid in unifying educational processes throughout the nation.

JAMES S. HIATT.

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Conyngton, Thomas. *A Manual of Corporate Management.* Third edition. Pp. xviii, 422. Price, \$3.50. New York: Ronald Press, 1909.

This compendious volume, furnishing a vast quantity of useful information, marks a decided improvement over previous editions of the same work. While writing for the most part with strict legal accuracy, its author has managed to avoid being technical. As the title indicates, the purpose of the work is to present within a reasonable compass a practical handbook of corporate management.

The book is divided into eight parts. The first five deal with matters of substantive corporation law. The last three contain various useful and well-chosen forms. The following outline indicates the scope of the book: Part I, The Corporate System; Part II, Stock; Part III, Stockholders; Part IV, Directors and Officers; Part V, Miscellaneous Corporate Matters; Part VI, Forms Relating to Incorporation; Part VII, Forms Relating to Meetings; Part VIII, Miscellaneous Corporate Forms. Almost every question that might arise in the ordinary management of corporate affairs is answered concisely within the limits of a single volume. Not the least valuable feature of the work is the number of forms, two hundred and two in all.

Like most works which deal with the law throughout the entire United States, Mr. Conyngton's book can do little more than give the majority rule in matters wherein the practice of corporations and the laws regulating them vary in the different states. In this country, corporations are altogether of statutory origin, and the legislatures of many of the states have apparently sought to outvie each other in the number and novelty of their statutes governing domestic and foreign companies. It were hopeless, for instance, to try in brief space to chronicle the vagaries, constitutional and otherwise, of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas lawmakers. One has no easy task in setting forth the law of corporations as laid down in any single state; the statutes and judicial decisions of over forty states are in many matters utterly discordant and cannot be exhaustively summarized in a single volume.

A general work of this kind, therefore, while it will lighten the labor of corporation officials and give them an intelligent appreciation of what might otherwise seem meaningless red tape, cannot be regarded as an inex-

pensive substitute for a lawyer's advice. But even a corporation lawyer may find much that is helpful in Mr. Conyngton's manual.

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Crichfield, George W. *American Supremacy.* 2 vols. Pp. xvi, 1244. Price, \$6.00. New York: Brentano's, 1908.

From internal evidence it appears that the author is an engineer who has had wide experience in construction work in Venezuela. His life there has furnished him with many examples of the faults of South-American governments. As a consequence, the whole tone of his volumes is one of acrid criticism. South Americans, as a whole, are criticised as semi-barbarians and liars. They can never achieve responsible self-government. The United States should assume control over the ill-ordered republics. One of the great impediments to this course is the Monroe Doctrine, which the author criticises as a national superstition, a bar to civilization and a menace to our peace and safety. Peru, Chile and the Argentine and Mexico should for the present be left to themselves. Costa Rica, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, are governments not worthy of recognition, but not wholly bad; all the other countries "have sinned away their day of grace."

An author who writes with so much animus, seriously limits the hearing which he will receive. These two large volumes contain, however, a mass of valuable information. The extended quotations from various works on South America give us material not elsewhere easy of access, but lack of orderly arrangement and digressions covering dozens of pages swell the volumes far beyond what should be their size. Among the latter are an attack on the Supreme Court; a discussion of the naturalization law of the United States, containing numerous misstatements of fact, and a summary review of European colonization.

The interpretations of fact are in so many places unfair that the criticisms in unfamiliar fields cannot be accepted without question. For example the author thinks the most we can hope for in the United States is that the good accomplished by our courts will exceed the evil. The defects of South-American cities and of Chicago and New Orleans, in matters of sanitation, the author holds are not far different in degree. "It is time that the cities of these countries and Chicago and New Orleans should be cleaned up."

Secretary Root's visit to Brazil is discussed in detail. The author concludes, "The shouting of frenzied crowds . . . the clamor of bands, the booming of cannons, the cut-glass and bouquets may fool Elihu Root, but they cannot deceive me." Unfortunately, such estimates as these are almost typical of the author's attitude. Even discounting the manifest bias of the discussion the books present material which makes a strong impeachment of many of the governments. There is so much unstinted praise of Latin-American advance that a presentation of the other side, even though *ex-parte*, is welcome.

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